

WHAT WAS THE *THING* IN THE POOL?

TALES OF

10¢
NO. 2
AUG.

TALES OF
TERROR

HORROR





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

MYSTERY



12¢

No. 16

Tales

NATHAN NEVER STOPPED BELIEVING
IN HIS THEORY...AND NEVER STOPPED
WORKING UNTIL IT CAME TRUE...

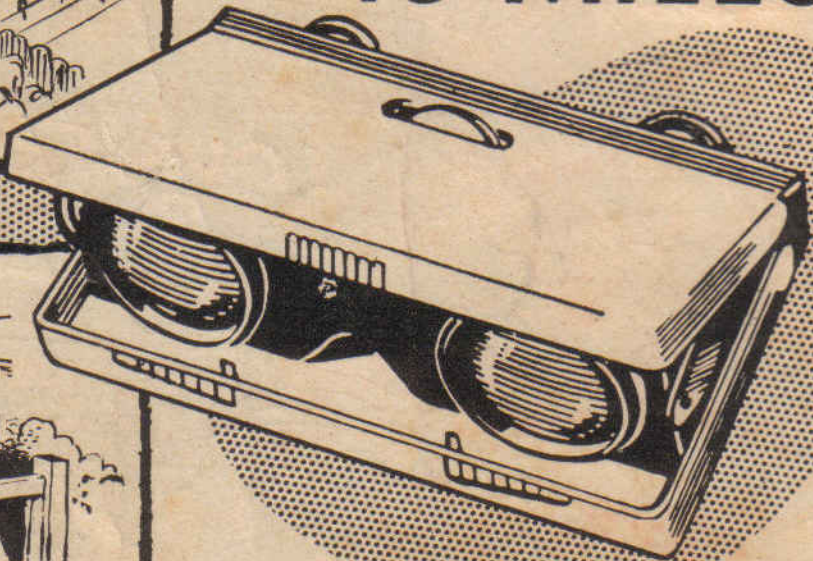
**"LOVE FROM
A PLANT!"**

SHE'S BEAUTIFUL!
NOW LET THEM SCOFF
AT NATHAN! I WILL
SHOW THEM ALL! THIS
IS JUST THE
BEGINNING!!



HI-POWER BINOCULARS

SEE UP TO 18 MILES



Powerful folding Opera Glasses
fit into pocket or purse. Center
eye piece adjustment. Worth many
times low introductory price. Com-
parable to models selling for \$4.95.

NOW ONLY

50¢

Postpaid.
Limit 2
to a customer.

BRUCE SALES CO., Room 206
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Please send me Hi-Power Binoculars.

☐ 1 for 50¢ ☐ 2 for \$1.00.

Limit 2 to a customer.

I enclose: ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Money Order
Sorry, No. C.O.D.'s.

NAME NARESTAR

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

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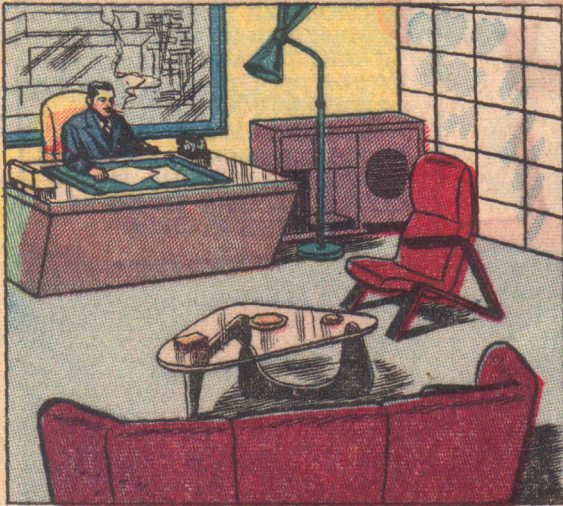
THE THING IN THE POOL

DO YOU LIKE TO SWIM? IS IT YOUR IDEA OF HEAVEN ON EARTH TO TAKE A LEISURELY DIP IN A POOL? WELL, **DON'T!** OR, LIKE ANN AND GEORGE WINSOR, YOU MIGHT FIND YOURSELF ENSNARED IN THE WRIGGLING, CHOKING TENTACLES OF... 'THE THING IN THE POOL'!

Myron
Fass

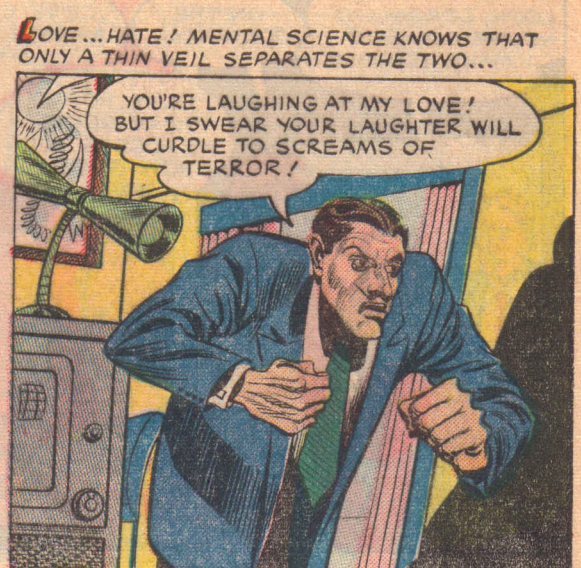


THE OFFICE-RESIDENCE OF SEBASTIAN CORDAY,
FAMED BUILDER OF ULTRA-MODERN HOMES...



GORDAY IS IN AN ILL
HUMOR WHEN...







LOOK, CORDAY... IF YOU'VE COME TO MAKE TROUBLE...

ON THE CONTRARY...

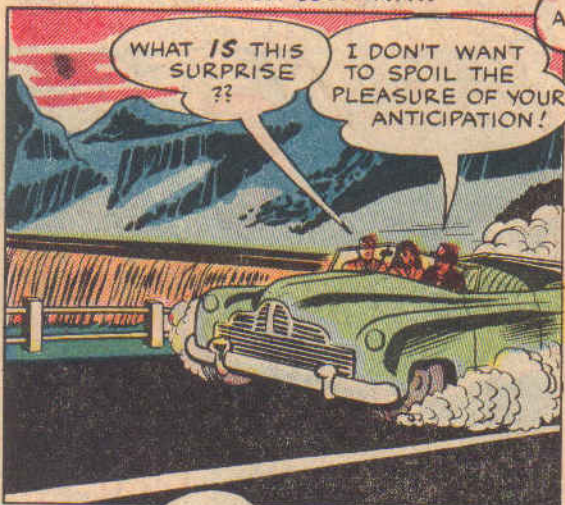
...I'VE COME TO MAKE AMENDS! I REGRET MY BOORISH TANTRUM...

OKAY, SO YOU'RE SORRY! WE FORGIVE YOU... NOW GOOD-BYE!

NO! YOU MUST LET ME PROVE HOW GENUINE MY REMORSE IS, COME WITH ME... I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR BOTH OF YOU!

WELL, I DON'T KNOW...

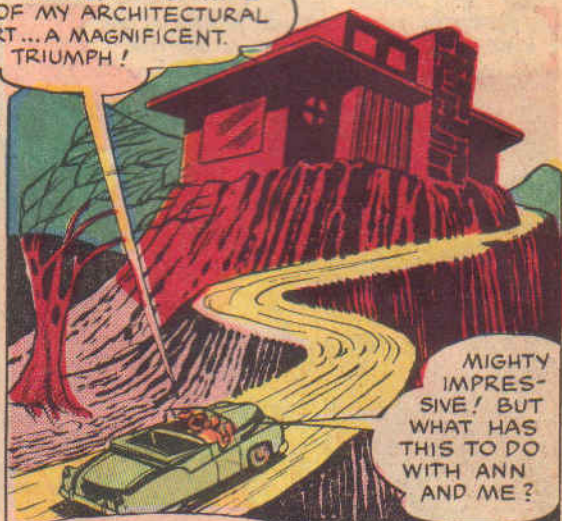
AND AS CORDAY DRIVES ANN AND GEORGE WINSOR INTO CANYON COUNTRY...



WHAT IS THIS SURPRISE ??

I DON'T WANT TO SPOIL THE PLEASURE OF YOUR ANTICIPATION!

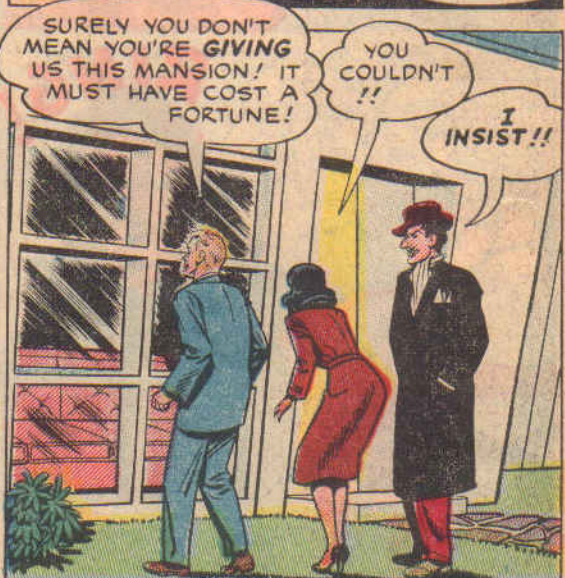
BEHOLD... THE ACME OF MY ARCHITECTURAL ART... A MAGNIFICENT TRIUMPH!



MIGHTY IMPRESSIVE! BUT WHAT HAS THIS TO DO WITH ANN AND ME?



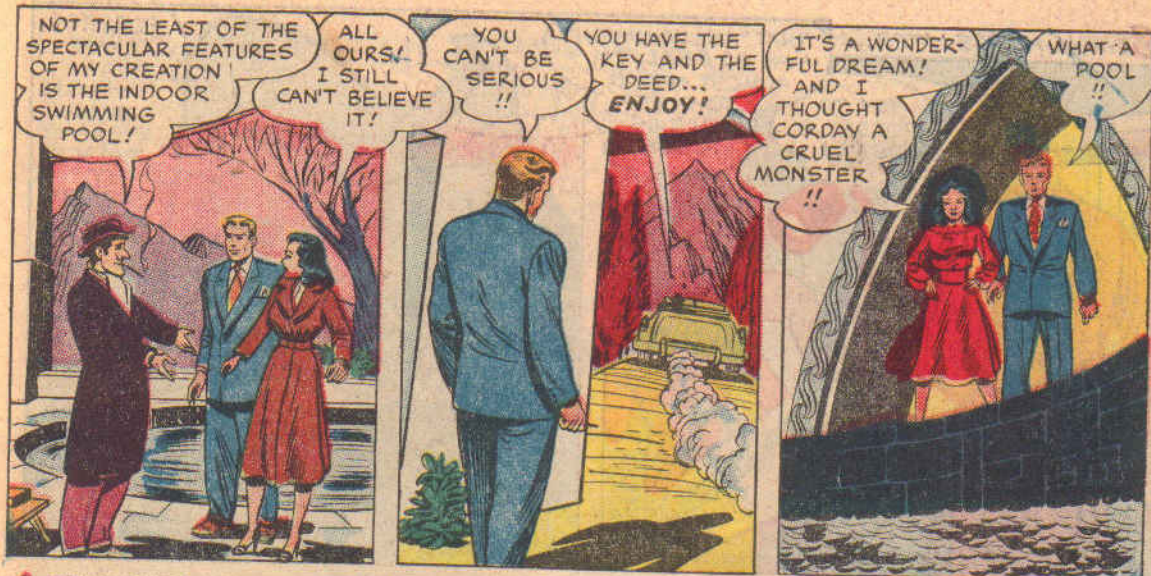
IT'S ALL YOURS !!



SURELY YOU DON'T MEAN YOU'RE GIVING US THIS MANSION! IT MUST HAVE COST A FORTUNE!

YOU COULDN'T !!

I INSIST!!



A FEW NIGHTS LATER...



SEVERAL NIGHTS LATER...



TRY TO FORGET IT, DEAR!

THAT "HALLUCINATION" WAS SO REAL, I'M ALMOST AFRAID TO SLEEP IN THIS HOUSE!



FORGET? ...THOSE SLIMY TENTACLES ...BEADY EYES! AND THE WAY "IT" STARED AT ME!

PLEASE TRY TO SLEEP, ANN. YOU'RE JUST UPSETTING YOURSELF NEEDLESSLY. REMEMBER... I HAVE A GUN!

I GUESS I AM BEING FOOLISH... I'LL TRY!

LATER, GEORGE AWAKENS...

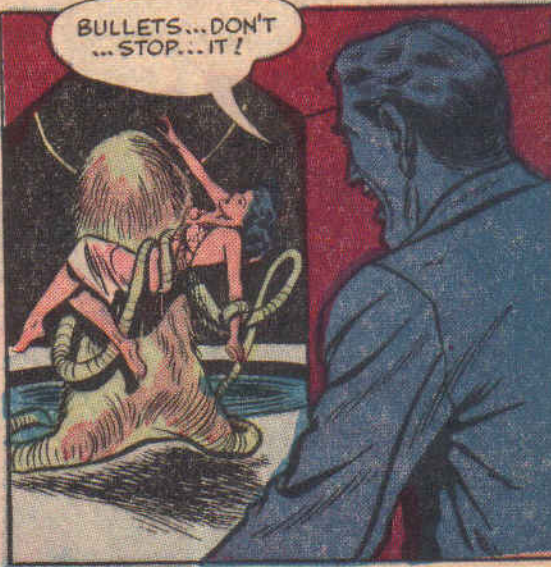


UGH! WHAT A HORRIBLE ODOR!



IT'S THE THING ANN DESCRIBED! SHE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH!

BANG! BANG!



BULLETS...DON'T ...STOP...IT!

DESPERATELY GEORGE PURSUES THE THING AND HIS CAPTIVE BRIDE...

GEORGE!
GEORGE!
HELP
ME!

IT'S CARRYING HER
...INTO...THE
POOL!



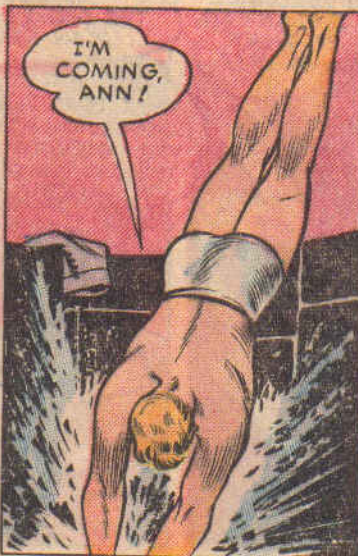
HELP!
HELP!

EEE-YAAA
(GURGLE!)

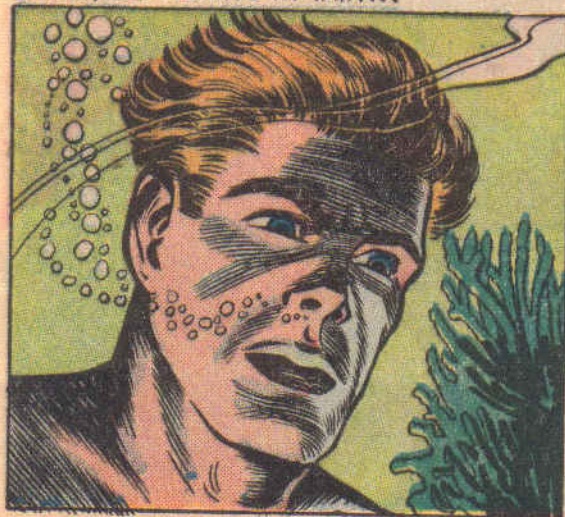
IT DRAGGED
HER UNDER!



I'M
COMING,
ANN!



Again and again George dives for his bride, searching in vain...



POLICE...
GOT TO
CALL...
THE
POLICE!

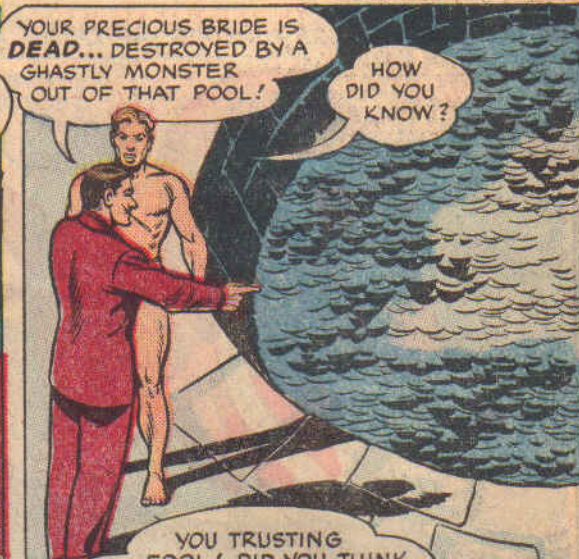
THAT
WON'T BE
NECESSARY
!!





SEBASTIAN CORDAY! THANK GOODNESS...GASP...YOU'RE HERE! LET ME...GASP...TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT!

LET ME TELL YOU!



YOUR PRECIOUS BRIDE IS DEAD... DESTROYED BY A GHASTLY MONSTER OUT OF THAT POOL!

HOW DID YOU KNOW?



BECAUSE I PLANNED IT THAT WAY!!



YOU TRUSTING FOOL! DID YOU THINK I WOULD LET YOU STEAL THE GIRL I LOVED AND NOT PLAN REVENGE?

BUT WHAT POSSIBLE CONNECTION COULD YOU HAVE WITH THAT THING IN THE POOL?

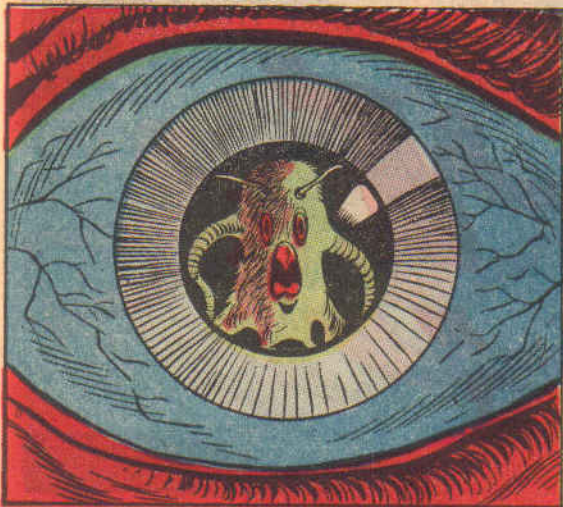


A YEAR AGO, WHEN ANN JILTED ME, I DROVE OUT TO THIS SECTION OF CANYON COUNTRY AND PARKED, BY CHANCE, NEAR THIS POOL!



"...AND AS I WAS PARKED IN THE NIGHT, DEEP IN THOUGHT, UNDULATING TENTACLES REACHED TOWARD MY THROAT..."

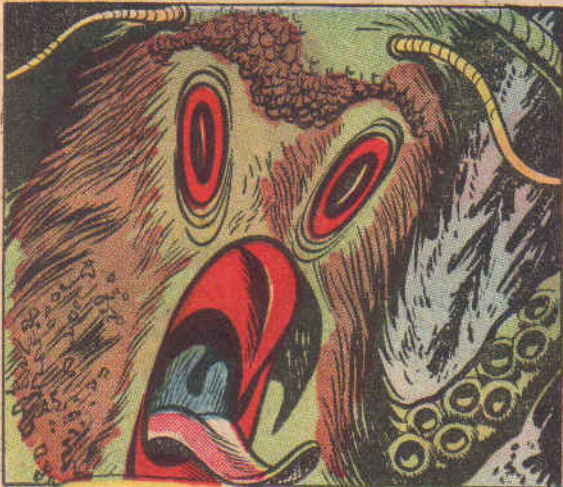
"...I GLANCED UP TO A NIGHTMARISH HORROR SLOBBERING AT ME..."



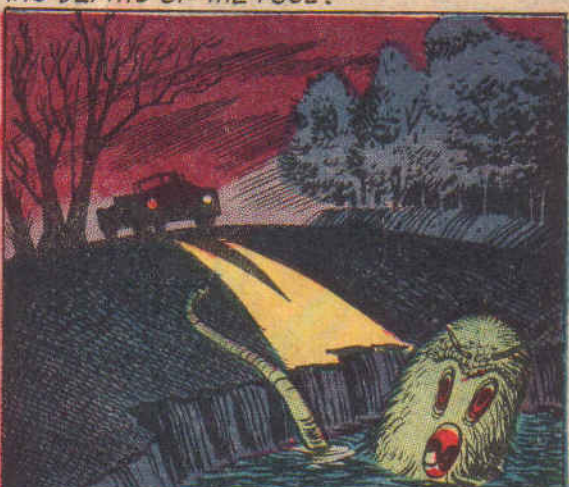
"...I STEPPED ON THE GAS... NARROWLY ESCAPING A HIDEOUS DEATH..."



"...THE SLIMY BEAST SHRIEKED ITS ANGER...ITS RED MAW GNASHING OPEN AND SHUT IN BAF- FLED FRUSTRATION..."



"...AND AS I WATCHED FROM A SAFE DISTANCE, THE THING SCUTTLED BACK INTO THE SHELTER- ING DEPTHS OF THE POOL!"



I REALIZED THAT THIS UNSPEAKABLE CREATURE WAS A SURVIVOR FROM PREHISTORIC TIMES WHICH VENTURES OUT OF THE POOL AT NIGHT!



IT WAS THEN THAT I GOT MY MASTERFUL INSPIRATION FOR REVENGE...TO BUILD A HOME OVER THAT POOL OF HORROR... AND PRESENT IT TO YOU TRUSTING, DOOMED FOOLS!





YOU **DELIBERATELY**
PLANNED ALL THIS?
YOU FILTHY
COWARD...

YES...HA, HA!
DELIBERATELY!



ANN WAS DESTROYED...
AND NOW ITS **YOUR**
TURN!



YAA-AAA!

HA/HA! THE
REVENGE OF
SEBASTIAN
CORDAY!



HA, HA, HAAA-AA!
AGHH-H ???



NO! NOT ME! NOT ME!
EEE-EE-EE-AAAA !!



**FOR SALE,
CHEAP...**
AN ULTRA-
MODERN
MANSION
WHOSE
OCCUPANTS
HAVE MYST-
ERIOUSLY
DISAP-
PEARED!

**FOR
SALE**



ARE
YOU
INTER-
ESTED?
?

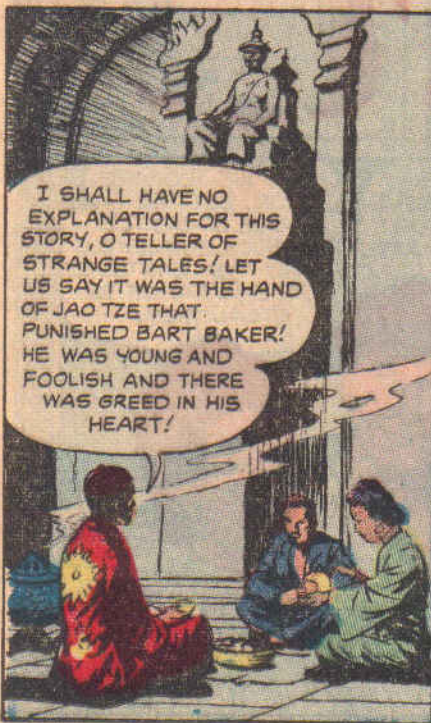
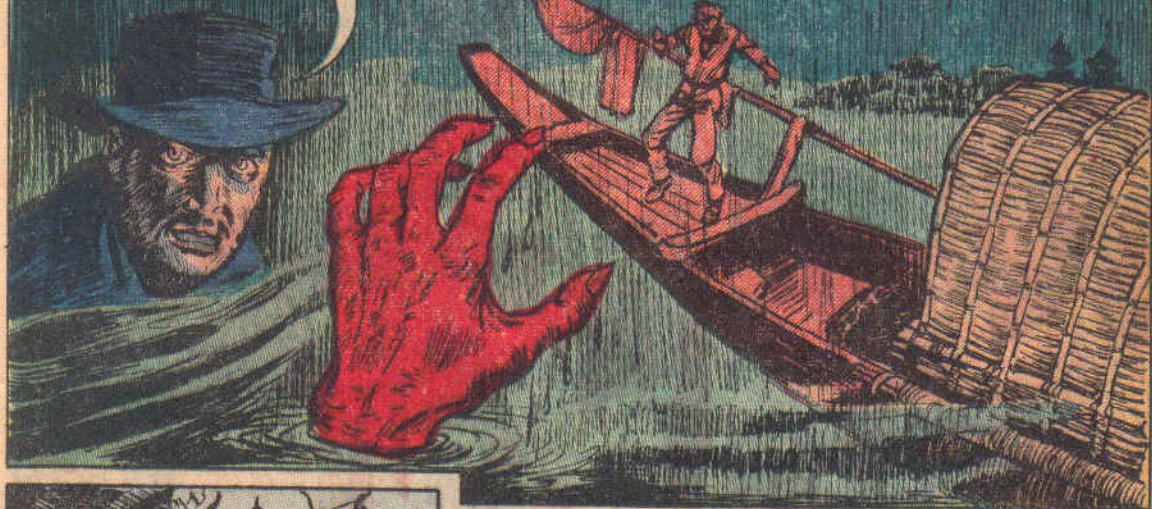
IF SO,
DROP
IN
!

**THE
END**

The HAND of JAO TZE

WELL, FRIENDS, I'VE TOLD YOU MANY A TALE CALCULATED TO BRING CHILLS AND THRILLS RACING UP AND DOWN YOUR SPINE! BUT HERE IS A TALE TOLD TO ME LONG AGO IN A FORGOTTEN CHINESE TEMPLE... A TALE OF WEIRD, INEXPLICABLE HAPPENINGS!

BART BAKER, MATE OF THE RIVER BOAT CHINA TRADER, WAS YOUNG, HANDSOME... WITH A WARM SMILE ON HIS LIPS... AND COLD GREED IN HIS HEART...



I SHALL HAVE NO EXPLANATION FOR THIS STORY, O TELLER OF STRANGE TALES! LET US SAY IT WAS THE HAND OF JAO TZE THAT PUNISHED BART BAKER! HE WAS YOUNG AND FOOLISH AND THERE WAS GREED IN HIS HEART!

BART BAKER'S STORY BEGINS MANY YEARS AGO... ON A RIVER BOAT SAILING THE MUDDY WATERS OF THE HWANG HO. THEY WERE COMING INTO THE RIVER PORT OF JAO TZE TO UNLOAD CARGO..."

NO USE GOING ASHORE, BART. WE'RE ONLY STAYING A COUPLE OF HOURS!

LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO SEE THIS TOWN, CAPTAIN.



YOU'VE BEEN GETTING INTO TROUBLE IN EVERY PORT WE'VE STOPPED AT! THIS IS NO PLACE TO MESS AROUND IN, BART.

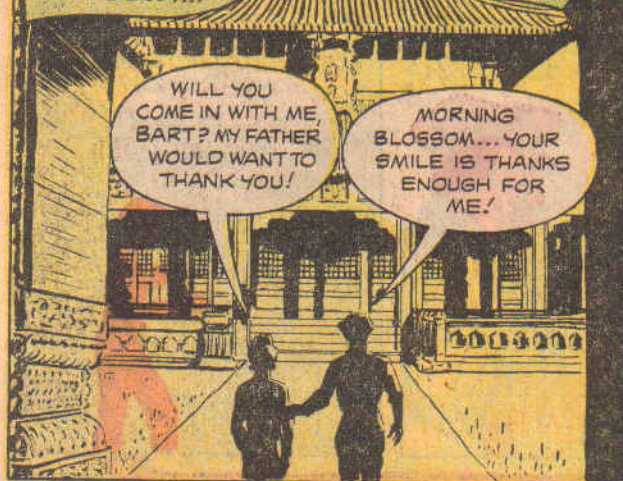
DON'T WORRY, CAPTAIN! I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF!



"WHATEVER FAULTS BART BAKER HAD, FEAR WAS NOT ONE OF THEM! DEVIL-MAY-CARE AND TWO-FISTED... HE WAS ALWAYS READY FOR A LARK OR A FIGHT..."



JEWELS... A FORTUNE SO NEAR! THE THOUGHT OF IT SUDDENLY SENT THE BLOOD RACING THROUGH BART'S BODY...



WILL YOU COME IN WITH ME, BART? MY FATHER WOULD WANT TO THANK YOU!

MORNING BLOSSOM... YOUR SMILE IS THANKS ENOUGH FOR ME!



COME! I WILL SHOW YOU THE JEWELS OF JAO TZE! YOU SHALL SEE THE TREASURE YOU SAVED IN SAVING ME!

I SAW ONLY A GIRL IN NEED OF HELP, MORNING BLOSSOM! I WASN'T THINKING OF ANY TREASURE!



LOOK, MY FRIEND!

I SEE DIAMONDS... RUBIES... OTHER JEWELS! BUT THOSE ARE NOT THE TREASURE OF THIS TEMPLE!



YOU ARE THE REAL TREASURE HERE! THE IDOL HAS ONLY JEWELS ... BUT YOU ARE BEAUTY AND GOODNESS, MORNING BLOSSOM! IF THERE WERE A TREASURE HERE I WOULD WANT TO STEAL, IT WOULD BE YOU!



NOT MANY HAVE SUCH WISDOM AT YOUR YOUNG AGE, MY FRIEND! BUT YOU SPEAK A GREAT TRUTH! IF ONLY MORE MEN KNEW WHAT TRUE VALUE IS!



SO YOU SAIL SOON? WILL YOU STOP WITH US AGAIN ON YOUR WAY BACK DOWN THE RIVER? YOU MUST CONSIDER OUR HUMBLE HOME YOUR HOME... FOR MY DAUGHTER AND I OWE YOU MUCH!

I WILL COME BACK AGAIN... FOR I WANT TO SEE MORNING BLOSSOM!



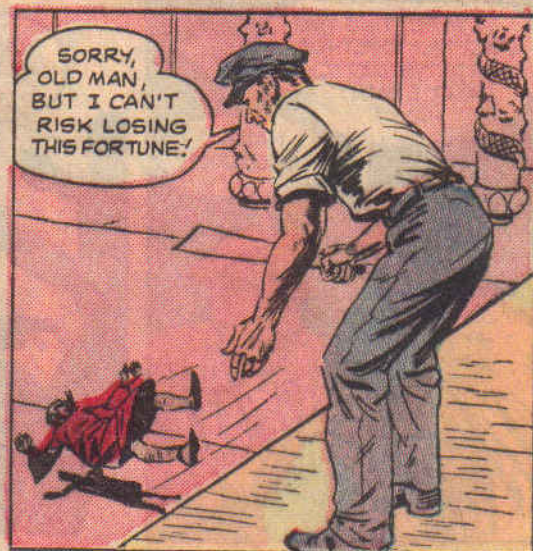
YOU WILL NOT FORGET ME? YOU WILL COME BACK?

I WILL COME, MORNING BLOSSOM... FOR I LOVE YOU!



BEHIND THE SWEET WORDS BART WHISPERED INTO THE GIRL'S EARS, GREED AND TREACHERY SMOULDERED! WHEN THE TEMPLE WAS CLOSED FOR THE NIGHT...







AND WHERE THE DEVIL WERE YOU? MAKING ME WAIT TWO HOURS FOR YOU! OH-HO! IS THAT BLOOD I SEE ON YOUR HANDS?

BLOOD?
OH, YES... YES...
I GOT INTO A BIT OF A FIGHT!



A BIT OF A FIGHT? HA! WORD AND RUMOR MOVE FAST ON THE RIVER HWANG HO! FASTER THAN YOU WERE ABLE TO SNEAK BACK TO THE DOCKS ...WORD SPREAD THAT THE JEWELS OF JAO TZE HAVE BEEN STOLEN!

WHAT?
BUT HOW...
WHO..."

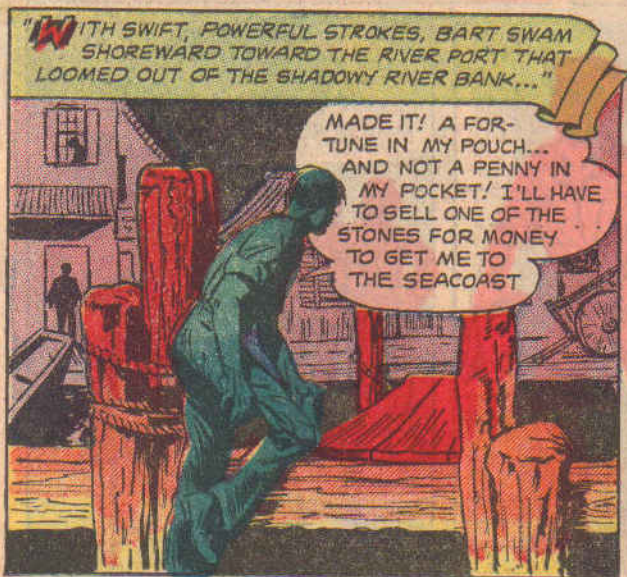


I'M PUTTING TWO AND TWO TOGETHER, BART! YE DID IT... AND I WANT HALF!

HALF YOU WANT?

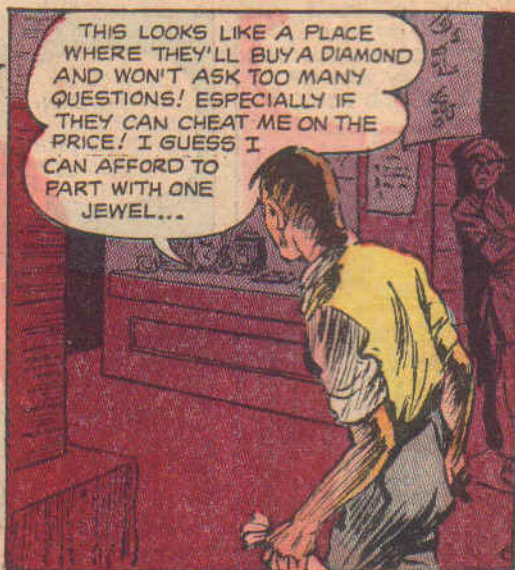


YOU CAN HAVE ALL OF THIS... MY FIST!



"WITH SWIFT, POWERFUL STROKES, BART SWAM SHOREWARD TOWARD THE RIVER PORT THAT LOOMED OUT OF THE SHADOWY RIVER BANK..."

MADE IT! A FORTUNE IN MY POUCH... AND NOT A PENNY IN MY POCKET! I'LL HAVE TO SELL ONE OF THE STONES FOR MONEY TO GET ME TO THE SEACOAST



THIS LOOKS LIKE A PLACE WHERE THEY'LL BUY A DIAMOND AND WON'T ASK TOO MANY QUESTIONS! ESPECIALLY IF THEY CAN CHEAT ME ON THE PRICE! I GUESS I CAN AFFORD TO PART WITH ONE JEWEL...



I WANT TO SELL A JEWEL. I'LL TAKE CASH ... AND NO QUESTIONS!

LET ME SEE THIS JEWEL FIRST! I WILL ASK NO QUESTIONS, SIR. I AM NOT CURIOUS.



HERE IT IS... NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE! IMPOSSIBLE!



A FINGER! HIS FINGER!

A FINGER? IS THAT THE NAME OF THIS JEWEL? HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT FOR IT?



KEEP IT! KEEP IT!

STRANGE! PERHAPS HE HAS MORE GEMS IN THAT POUCH OF HIS! IT IS WORTH LOOKING INTO!



THAT MADMAN HAS A FORTUNE IN PRECIOUS STONES! GET HIM... BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE CUTS HIS THROAT FOR THOSE JEWELS!



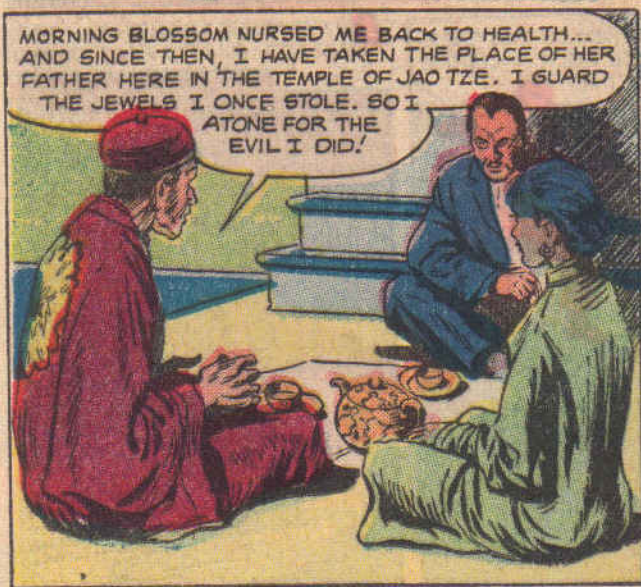
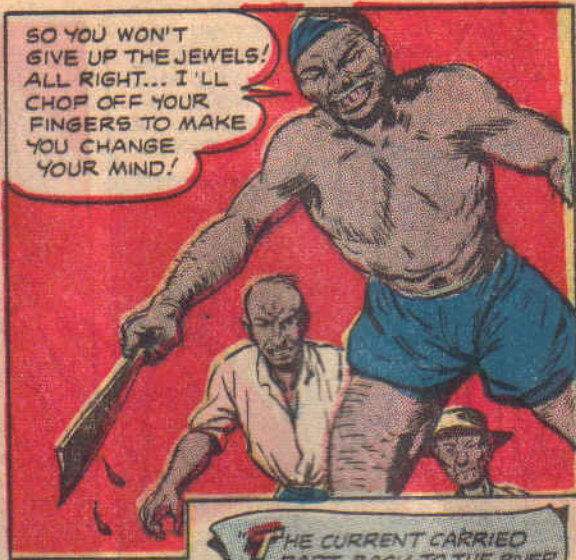
THAT MERCHANT PLAYED SOME TRICK ON ME! NOW HE'S GOT MEN AFTER ME TO GET THE REST OF MY JEWELS!



I'LL LOSE THEM ON THE RIVER, THEN. I'LL GO BACK AND TAKE CARE OF THAT THIEF OF A STORE KEEPER!

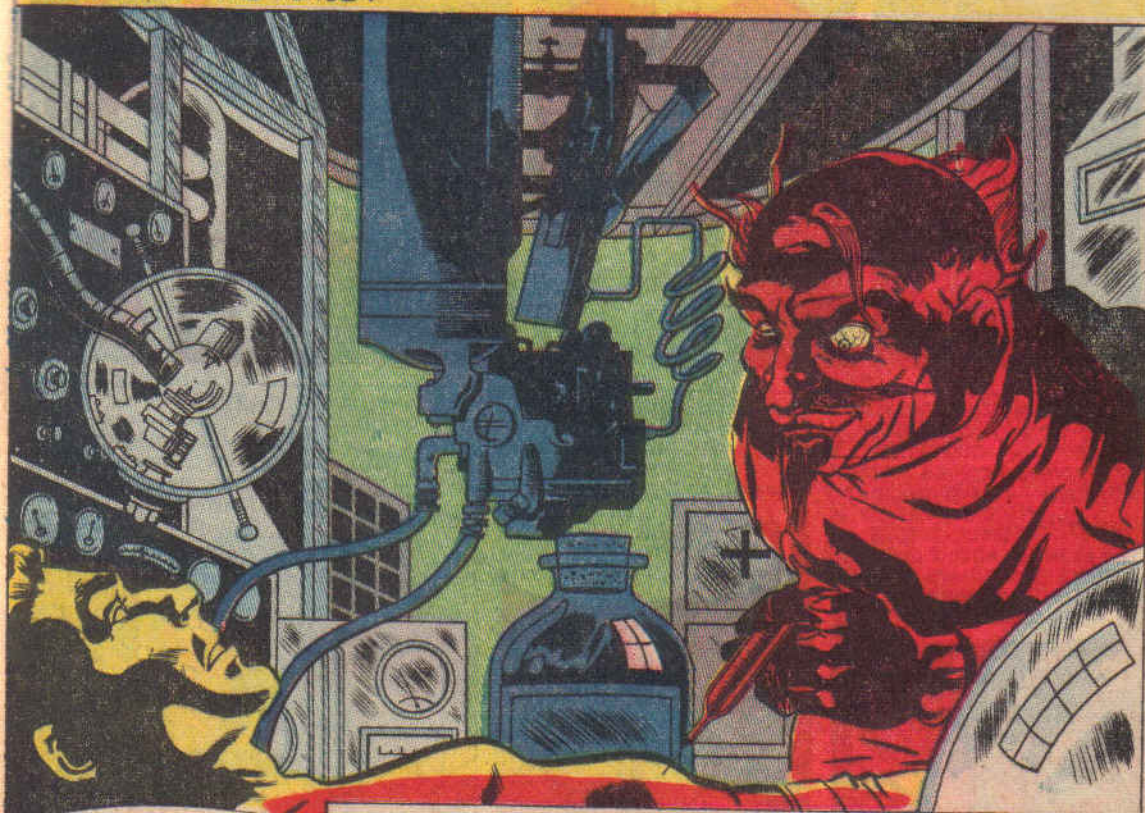


"BUT RUNNING THROUGH THE DARK AND FOG, BART'S FOOT TRIPPED AND..."



THE RIPPER'S RETURN

THE OUTSIDE WORLD CALLED IT A "REST HOME". INSIDE IT WAS A HOUSE OF HORROR! SICK, DEMENTED BEINGS WANDERED ABOUT THE WEIRD GLOOMY ROOMS... TERROR LURKED BEHIND EACH DOOR... AND SOME STRANGE, FEARFUL OFFSPRING OF SCIENCE CHILLED THE VERY AIR OF THE PLACE!



THIS IS A TALE OF EERIE THINGS THAT FLOAT IN THE AIR... UNSEEN... UNTOUCHED... BUT **REAL!**... AS CURIOUS YOUNG DR. JASON BROWN LEARNED!

YOU'VE NEVER BEEN IN FRANCE NOR STUDIED THE LANGUAGE. OUR RECORDS OF YOUR PAST PROVE THAT... YET YOU SPEAK FRENCH LIKE A NATIVE!

M'SIEUR!
I AM NAPOLEON. WHY SHOULD I NOT SPEAK FRENCH? PARBLEU! YOU FOOLS!

STILL TRYING TO LEARN WHY OUR "NAPOLEON" SPEAKS FRENCH SO WELL, DR. BROWN?

IT'S NOT JUST THAT, DR. KARVEL... HE KNOWS FACTS ABOUT NAPOLEON THAT ONLY AN ACCOMPLISHED SCHOLAR COULD KNOW!



AND...? CAN YOU EXPLAIN HIS STRANGE KNOWLEDGE?

I THINK SO, SIR. WE CALL HIM CRAZY, BUT...SUPPOSE THE SPIRIT OF NAPOLEON HAS ENTERED HIS BODY?



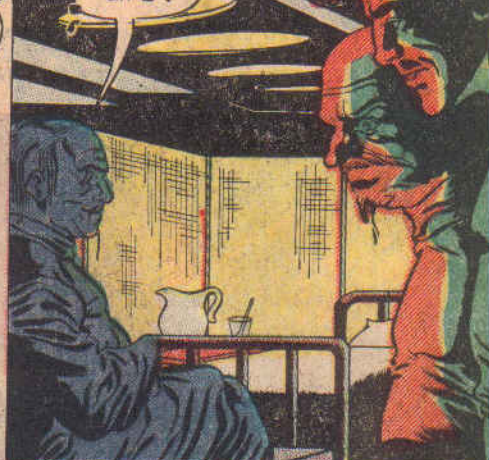
TALKING LIKE THAT, DR. BROWN, MAY SOON MAKE YOU A PATIENT!

EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT SOMEHOW LONG DEAD SPIRITS HAVE ENTERED THE BODIES OF OUR PATIENTS, DOCTOR! COME...SEE THE MAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF CONFUCIUS...



OH, WISE TEACHER, WHAT IS MOST VALUABLE IN LIFE?

THREE THINGS, MY SON! FOOD... CLOTHING... SHELTER! WITHOUT THESE CAN BE NO LIFE!



ANYONE CAN QUOTE CONFUCIUS! THIS PROVES NOTHING

NO, DR. KARVEL! THAT QUOTATION COMES FROM A MANUSCRIPT DISCOVERED ONLY THREE MONTHS AGO. I CHECKED PROFESSOR ADAMS OF THE ORIENTAL MUSEUM... HE ALONE HAS READ IT!



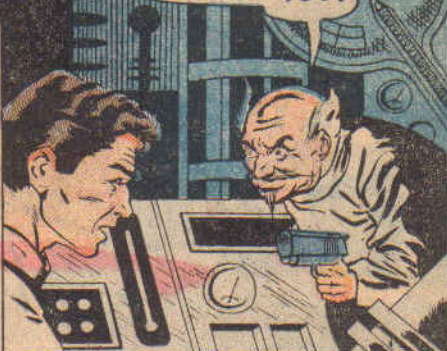
I HAVE NO DOUBTS, DOCTOR. I'M GOING TO ANNOUNCE MY DISCOVERY. PERHAPS OTHERS HAVE OBSERVED SIMILAR THINGS ABOUT THE INSANE!

I FEAR I CANNOT PERMIT YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT, DR. BROWN!



BUT WHY...? **DR. KARVEL!** WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

I'M STOPPING YOUR INTERFERENCE WITH MY WORK, BROWN! YOUR DISCOVERY IS VERY UNFORTUNATE...FOR YOU!



I'LL SHOW YOU MY LABORATORY, BROWN...I'M SURE YOU WILL APPRECIATE MY WORK! BUT ANY ANNOUNCEMENT OF YOUR DISCOVERY WOULD DETRACT FROM THE CREDIT AND HONOR DUE TO ME... TO ME ALONE!

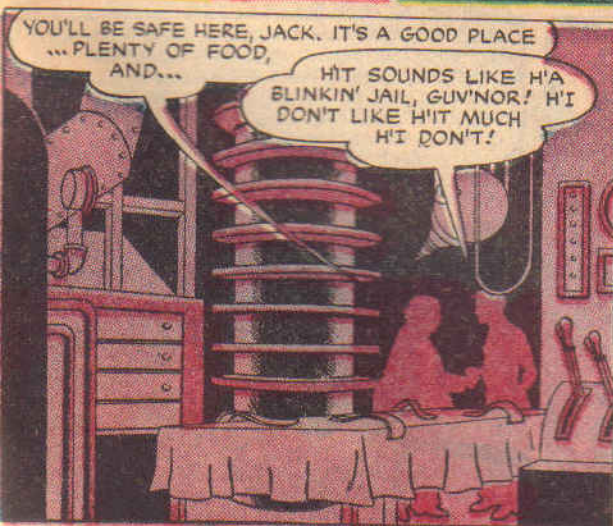
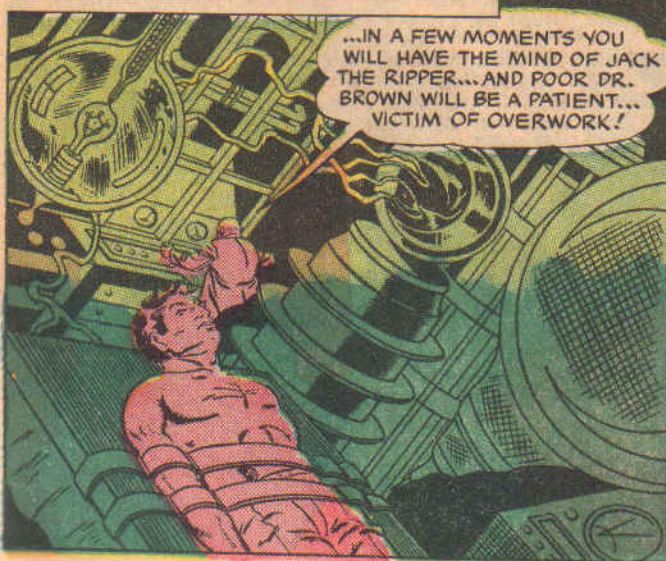
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, DR. KARVEL.



QUITE SIMPLE, REALLY! I HAVE DISCOVERED HOW TO COLLECT THE TINY BRAIN ATOMS OF PERSONS LONG DEAD...AND HOW TO INSERT THEM IN LIVING PEOPLE. A LIVING PERSON MAY BECOME SOMEONE ELSE...SOMEONE DEAD FOR CENTURIES!

THEN... THEN OUR PATIENTS REALLY AREN'T CRAZY!!

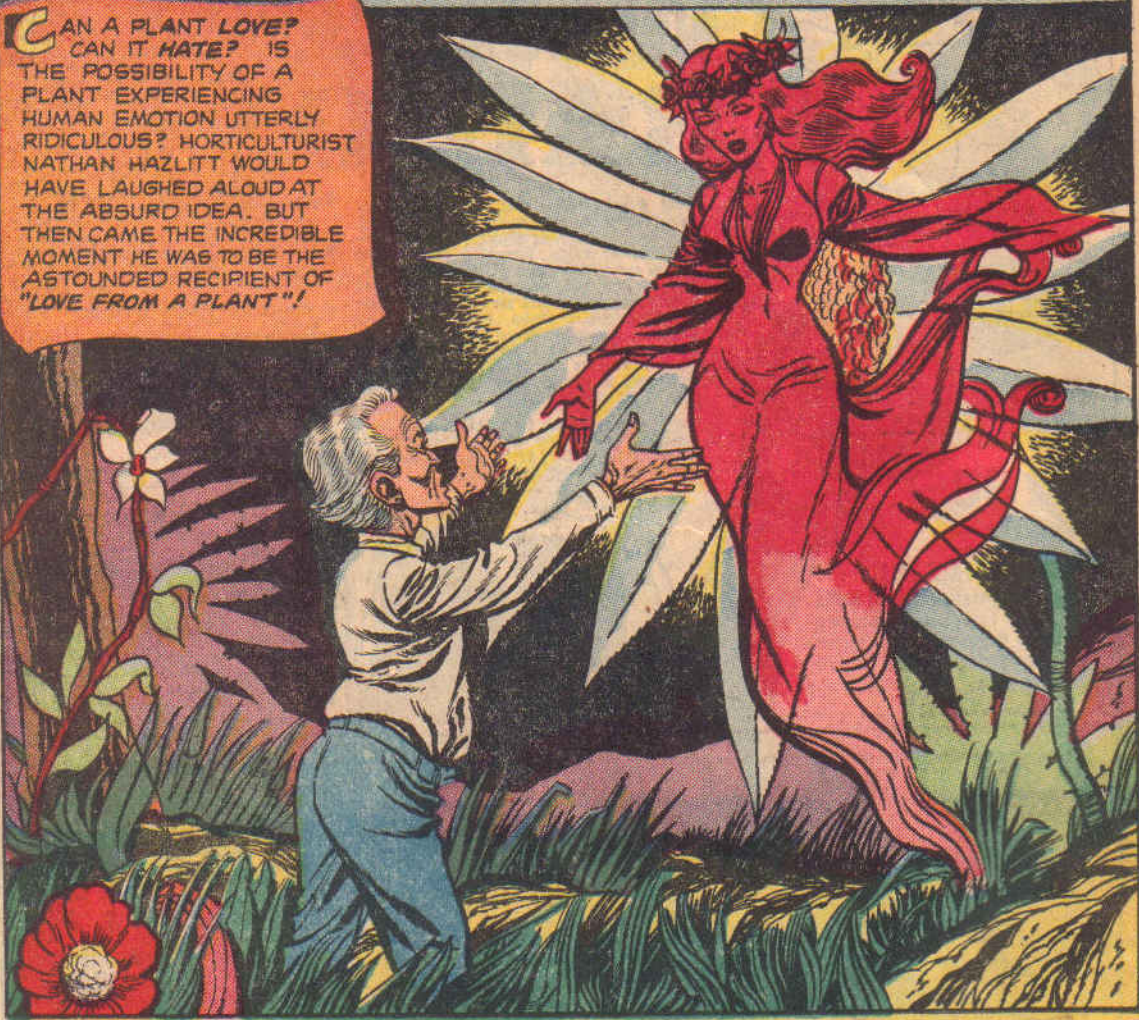






LOVE from a PLANT

CAN A PLANT LOVE?
CAN IT HATE? IS
THE POSSIBILITY OF A
PLANT EXPERIENCING
HUMAN EMOTION UTTERLY
RIDICULOUS? HORTICULTURIST
NATHAN HAZLITT WOULD
HAVE LAUGHED ALOUD AT
THE ABSURD IDEA. BUT
THEN CAME THE INCREDIBLE
MOMENT HE WAS TO BE THE
ASTOUNDED RECIPIENT OF
"LOVE FROM A PLANT"!

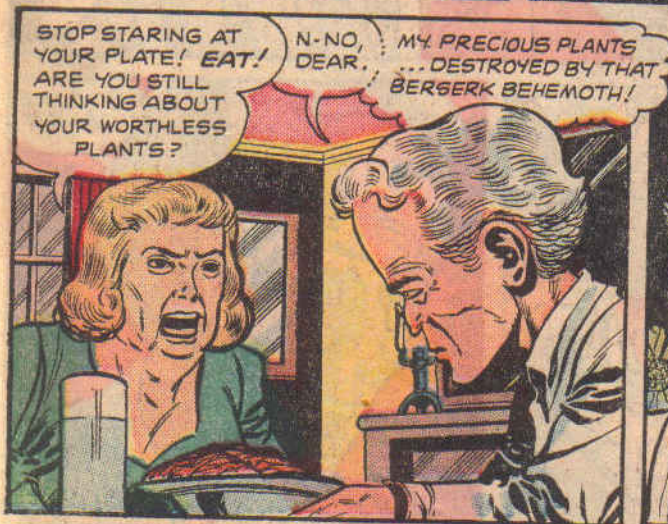


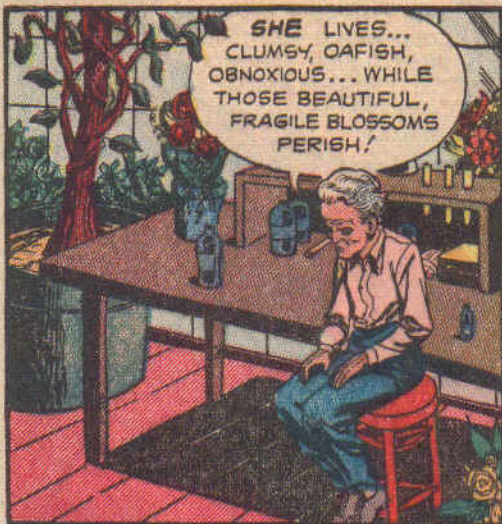
OPEN THAT GREENHOUSE
DOOR! OPEN IT RIGHT AWAY,
NATHAN, OR I'LL
KNOCK IT DOWN!



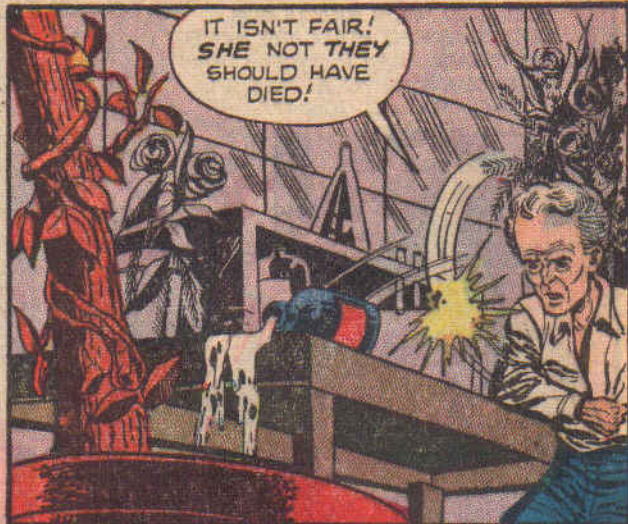
WON'T YOU PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE,
MARTHA? I'M WORKING ON AN
ABSORBING
EXPERIMENT!
I'LL SHOW YOU HOW I'LL
LEAVE YOU ALONE!







**SHE LIVES...
CLUMSY, OAFISH,
OBNOXIOUS... WHILE
THOSE BEAUTIFUL,
FRAGILE BLOSSOMS
PERISH!**



**IT ISN'T FAIR!
SHE NOT THEY
SHOULD HAVE
DIED!**



**WHAT HAVE I DONE?
ACCIDENTALLY SPILLED
POTASSIATE CARBONITE
OVER THAT VINE! EVERYTHING
IS GOING WRONG! EVERYTHING!**



**¡SOB! I HAVEN'T A FRIEND
IN THE WORLD! ¡SOB! NO-
BODY CARES ABOUT
ME... NOBODY!**



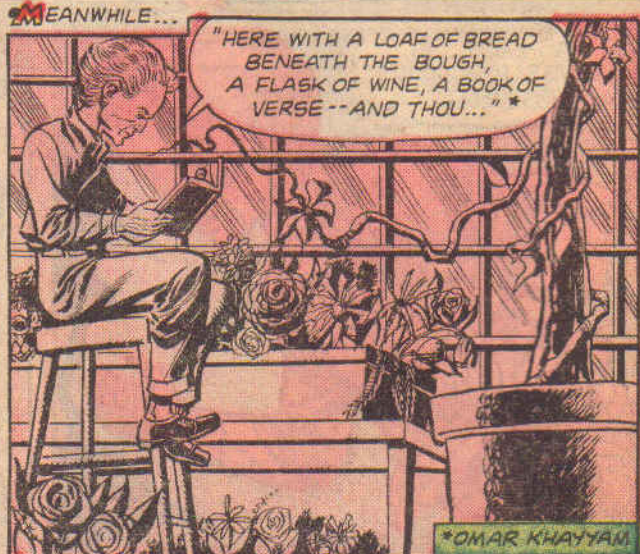
**GENTLY,
TENDERLY,
A VINE-
STRAND
EXTENDS
ITSELF
TOWARD
THE
SOBBING
HORTI-
CULTURIST,
AND...**

**SOMETHING'S
CARESSING...MY
HAND...**



**IT'S THE
VINE!!**





"TWANG OUT, MY FIDDLE!
SHAKE THE TWIGS!
AND MAKE HER DANCE
ATTENDANCE;
BLOW, FLUTE, AND STIR THE
STIFF-SET SPRINGS,
AND SCIRRHOUS ROOTS
AND TENDONS!" *



*ALFRED LORD TENNYSON



HOW MUCH BETTER TO
BE THE BELOVED OF
A QUIETLY PASSIONATE
PLANT, THAN THE
CRINGING SPOUSE OF A
FOUL-TEMPERED
FEMALE!



IF ONLY MARTHA
WASN'T AROUND
TO MAKE MY LIFE A
MISERY! WAIT! MAYBE
THERE *IS* A WAY!



THE
HATE-
SPRAY!

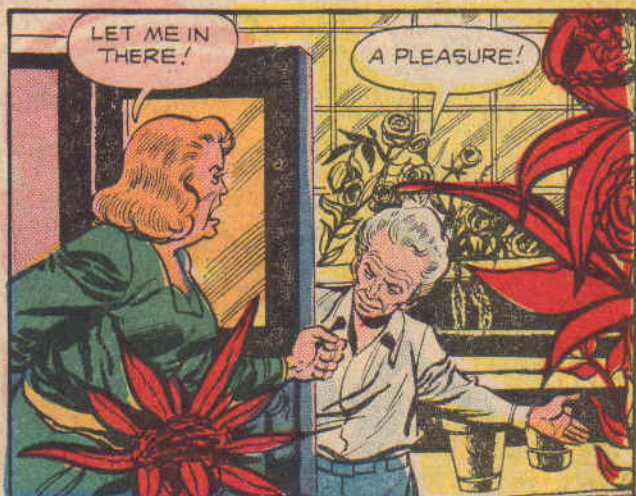


THE GREENHOUSE... HE'S *ALWAYS*
IN THE GREENHOUSE! *THIS* TIME
I'LL DO SOMETHING
PERMANENT ABOUT IT!



LET ME IN
THERE!

A PLEASURE!



SOON...



THE EFFECT OF THE HATE-SPRAY SWIFTLY WEARS OFF, THEN...

GET ME THE POLICE!
SOMETHING TERRIBLE
HAS HAPPENED!

WHAT HAPPENED IS
PRETTY OBVIOUS. YOUR
WIFE STUMBLED
INTO THAT VINE AND
WAS ACCIDENTALLY
STRANGLING!

MARTHA...
DEAD! I- I'LL
NEVER GET
OVER IT!



BUT WHEN HAZLITT IS
ALONE ONCE MORE...

IT WORKED! I'M
RID OF HER AT LAST!
THANKS TO YOU!

HAVE SOME
POTASSIATE CARBONITE,
LOVE! ENJOY!!



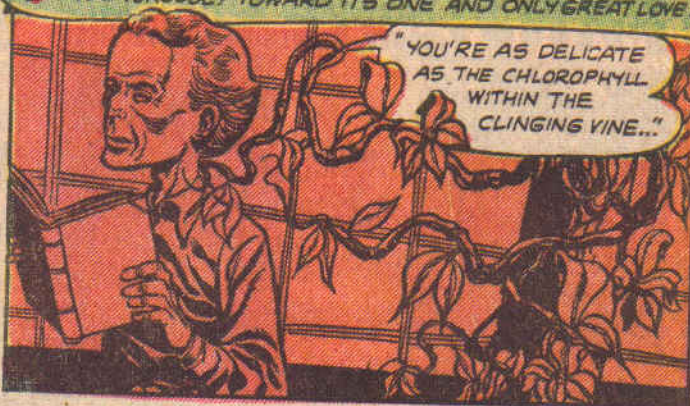
MARTHA ISN'T
AROUND TO MENACE
OUR HAPPINESS ANY
MORE! IT'LL BE JUST
YOU AND ME... AND
OUR POETRY...



"I THINK YOUR EYES ARE
WONDERFUL...
I THINK YOUR LIPS DIVINE..."



AS HAZLITT READS, THE AMOROUS VEGETABLE REACHES
RAPTUROUSLY TOWARD ITS ONE AND ONLY GREAT LOVE.



"YOU'RE AS DELICATE
AS THE CHLOROPHYLL
WITHIN THE
CLINGING VINE..."

"YOU SCARCELY EVER
CLUTCH ME...
I WORSHIP EVERY...
YAWRK!"



DESPERATELY
SOBBING,
PLEADING, AND
STRAINING,
HAZLITT
VAINLY ATTEMPTS
TO ESCAPE THE
CRUSHING,
WHIP-LIKE
STRANDS...

OH, NO!! STOP
TRYING TO HUG ME!
STOP!!

EE-YAHH!



BUT DESPITE HAZLITT'S AGONIZED
SCREAMS, THE LOVE-PLANT
INCREASES THE FEROCITY OF
ITS FERVENT EMBRACE!



ARNOLD
HAZLITT,
HORTICULTURIST
EXTRAORDINARY,
HAS BEEN
LOVED
TO DEATH...
BY A
PLANT!

THE END